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Thursday, November 13, 2014

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Kirk LaPointe: The Vancouver We Want

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Robertson losing support, Affordability hurting families

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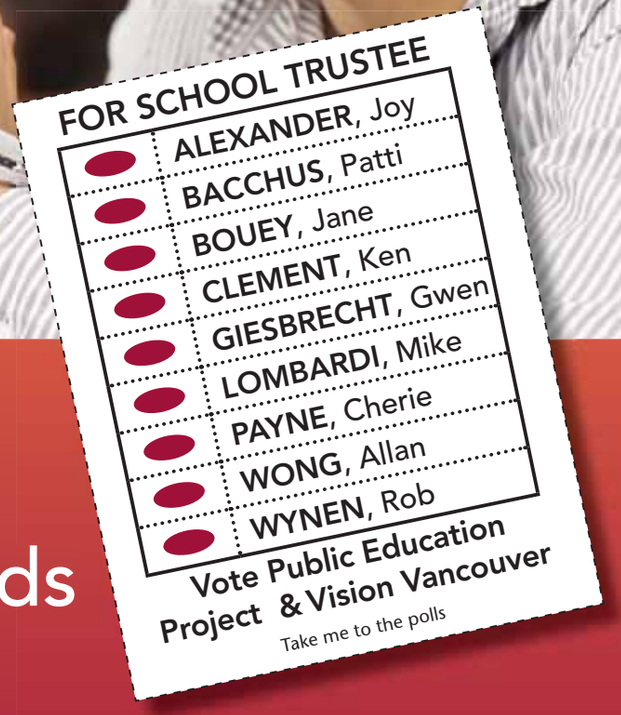
Authorized by Wayne Zielke, Financial Agent 604.559.1146



Q: What can **one person** do to make a **positive difference** for thousands of school children?

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Need information on voting and registration? See website: http://vancouver.ca/your-government/2014-municipal-election.aspx

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 27

VANCOUVER metro®
NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Ghomeshi video depicted woman's injuries: Sources

CBC officials were shown image of bruising to body PAGE 12

Dog walker pleads guilty to animal cruelty, mischief

6 dogs were killed when left in a sweltering vehicle in Langley PAGE 3

MUSHROOMS BRING THE HOUSE DOWN

A TART TO WIN HEARTS, STARRING EVERYONE'S FAVOURITE FUNGUS PAGE 30

'I am sorry,' mayor tells voters

Election. Robertson acknowledges that there are things his party hasn't 'done particularly well' and he vows to do better

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Vision Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson has apologized to voters days before the election. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

Vision Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson has apologized to voters for the way his party has done business over the past six years, pledging to do better if citizens give him another chance when they head to the polls Saturday.

The surprise apology came in his opening remarks in a CBC mayoral debate Wednesday between Robertson, the NPA's Kirk LaPointe and COPE's Meena Wong, the last time the top three candidates faced off before election day.

"I want to start with a message to voters directly. That's that I have heard you. While we've done a lot of good things ... in the past six years, there's also things that we haven't done particularly well. For those, in particular when I haven't met your expectations, I am sorry," said Robertson, who is vying for a third term in office.

"I know that if I'm re-elected again and honoured to have that position going forward, that I can do better."

He later urged COPE voters to pick Vision on their ballots, while Wong invited people to "come home" to COPE. Vision broke away from left-wing COPE in 2005, but the parties have not run competing mayoral candidates until this election.

The plea — which COPE called "desperate" — seems to address the narrowing gap between Robertson and LaPointe. Recent polls pegged Robertson just five points ahead of LaPointe, with 46 per cent and 41 per cent of voters intending to vote for each, respectively. That's a far cry from August, when 41 per cent of residents didn't even recognize LaPointe's name.

Wong's support has dropped to nine per cent, but Robertson's comments point to a fear that losing support from the left could lead to an NPA win. The NPA leans the furthest to the right of the three parties, notably with its pledges to institute free parking on Sundays and freeze taxes to the rate of inflation for one year, and its refusal to reject the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion outright.

LaPointe jumped on the mayor's apology, saying if re-elected Robertson will simply be apologizing again in four years. LaPointe promises his government will be transparent and listen to neighbourhoods, pointing to numerous lawsuits against Vision Vancouver over developments as a sign of the party's failure to consult.

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NEWS

Mayoral race

Two Surrey NDP MLAs endorse Barinder Rasode

Two of Surrey's NDP MLAs have endorsed Barinder Rasode in the city's tight three-way race for mayor.

Rasode's camp announced Wednesday that Harry Bains, MLA for Surrey-Newton, and Sue Hammell, MLA for Surrey-Green Timbers, have thrown their support behind her.

The battle to replace outgoing Mayor Dianne Watts has turned into one of the tightest political races in the region's history.

An Insights West poll released this week shows Surrey First's Linda Hepner and Safe Surrey's Doug McCallum are deadlocked for the lead, with 33 per cent support.

Rasode barely trails with 30 per cent support. Nearly a quarter of residents are undecided, according to the poll. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Federal case launched

First Nations challenge Site C

Four First Nation bands from northeastern B.C. have launched a Federal Court case over Ottawa's approval of the massive Site C hydroelectric dam.

The proposed $7.9-billion dam on the Peace River received environmental certificates from the provincial and federal governments last month.

The Doig River, Prophet River, West Moberly and McLeod Lake bands have filed an application for judicial review in Federal Court seeking to quash the federal approval. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Six dogs died this spring when they were left in a hot pickup truck at a Langley dog park. Their dog walker, Emma Paulsen, pleaded guilty Wednesday to animal cruelty and mischief. METRO FILE

Guilty plea for woman accused of killing 6 dogs

Two charges of six. One pet owner fears accused will only get 'a slap on the wrist'

A Vancouver-area dog walker accused of killing six dogs by leaving them in a hot truck has pleaded guilty to two charges: animal cruelty and mischief.

Emma Paulsen was charged with six counts before admitting that she lied about what happened in May, when she left the animals in her truck at a Langley dog park.

Paulsen first reported they had been stolen from her vehicle but then told police that the dogs died of heat exhaustion.

Reports of the missing dogs prompted a massive community search before ultimately leading officers to the bodies in a Fraser Valley ditch.

Jennifer Myers, whose Boston terrier died in the truck, said she fears Paulsen will get a light sentence after all the pain she's caused to families who lost their pets.

"She pleaded guilty to two of six charges, which right away makes you think that what she's going to get for a sentence will be a slap on the wrist than anything, and that's a real slap in the face of all the families," Myers said outside provincial court in Surrey.

The temperature was as high as 25 C on May 13, when Paulsen left the dogs, including one of her own, in the truck.

Paulsen initially said she was away from her vehicle for only a few minutes to use the washroom at a park and that when she returned the animals were gone.

She told police she spent hours looking for them and dreaded the thought of telling their owners they were missing, RCMP said at the time.

The maximum sentence for animal cruelty cases is two years.

Paulsen will be sentenced on Jan. 21.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Surrey. Man arrested after stabbing outside school

A 34-year-old Surrey man has been arrested after he allegedly stabbed a woman outside an elementary school Wednesday.

At about 8:30 a.m., Surrey RCMP responded to a report of a domestic assault outside Royal Heights Elementary.

Investigators at the scene were told a man had assaulted a woman known to him with a small knife.

Police arrested the man near the school without incident, and the knife was also recovered. The woman suffered minor injuries, according to police.

Cpl. Bert Paquet of Surrey RCMP said the school was in lockdown for a few minutes while police brought the suspect into custody.

"Students were never threatened or at risk during this targeted incident between two adults," he said in a statement.

Police are continuing to investigate and charges have not been finalized.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Sketch issued after hammer attack

Mounties have released a composite sketch of a man they say was involved in a hammer attack in Langley last month.

The assault happened just after 3 a.m. on Oct. 18, when police say two men in the process of robbing a woman at gunpoint in the 20,200-block of 56th Avenue were interrupted by a man.

One of the assailants held a gun to the man's head while another went to a vehicle and returned with a hammer and struck him in the head. The victim lost consciousness for a moment, and when he awoke, his attacker continued to hit him with a hammer and kick him on the ground, police said.

Police said the assailants fled in a newer-model silver car, possibly a Hyundai or a Toyota, which had after-market, newer-style cuts in the fender.

The victim was taken to hospital with a serious skull fracture.

One assailant may be of Filipino descent, has a medium skin complexion, stands six-foot-one, is in his mid to late 20s and weighs about 200 pounds with an athletic build.

He also has a bald or shaved head, a tattoo on his neck written in script and was wearing black clothing, dress shoes, dress pants and held a handbag.

Sketch of an assailant in a hammer attack. CONTRIBUTED

The other assailant is white, five-foot-10, also in his mid to late 20s, skinny, scruffy looking and was wearing a hat and a white and red hoodie.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Kinder Morgan Canada president still determined to push forward

Faces mounting opposition. Accused of bullying after taking protesters to court

MATT KIELTYKA
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Photos posted on Twitter with the hashtag #KMFace, including Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, top right, and Simon Fraser University Professor Lynne Quarmby, bottom centre, are shown in this photo collage of undated handout photos. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT/TWITTER

The president of Kinder Morgan Canada is defending his company against mounting opposition and bad publicity over the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project.

The company's decision to take a group of protesters to court for blocking survey work on Burnaby Mountain has seen Kinder Morgan accused of bullying and has even sparked a satirical #KMface social media campaign mocking it for showing photos of angry protesters it claims have intimidated work crews.

Ian Anderson, the company's president for Canada operations, spoke to media Wednesday in an attempt to address the criticism.

While acknowledging many are opposed to the proposed project and supporting free speech, Anderson said the protesters on Burnaby Mountain have crossed a threshold.

"The court case is about us lawfully trying to carry out studies on Burnaby Mountain ... and the people trying to block us from doing so," said Anderson. According to its lawsuit, Kinder Morgan stands to lose $88 million in lost revenues for each month the project is delayed.

Rationale

Civil suit is a formality: Anderson

Anderson acknowledged some call the civil suit "heavy handed" but claims it is simply a formality in seeking a court injunction so the company can continue its work.

Crews have two last bores to drill at the mountain to collect geological samples, a process that would take a week or two if work was allowed to resume unimpeded.

Then the company would leave the site, replant trees and compensate the City of Burnaby for any damage, Anderson said.

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A place where slot machines help solve problem gambling

New lab. Facility will 'transform gambling research in B.C.,' says UBC researcher

MATT KIELTYKA
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Researchers are hoping a new casino lab will help them hit a jackpot of data.

The University of British Columbia officially opened its new Centre for Gambling Research on Wednesday, heralding it as one of only a handful of research hubs like it in the entire world.

"This facility will transform gambling research in British Columbia," said Luke Clark, the centre's first director.

Clark, a former Cambridge psychologist who led the U.K.'s largest study of pathological gamblers, was hired by UBC early this year to launch the centre.

At the time, he said his goal was to reduce the harms associated with gambling and influence policies to make treatment more effective.

"Our work will help us better understand the psychology of gambling games and problem gambling, which will bolster UBC's strengths in addictions research and ultimate result in healthier communities," he said in a statement Wednesday.

The new centre, established with $2 million in funding from the provincial government at the B.C. Lottery Corporation, features a casino lab full of slot machines and other games so researchers can measure player behaviour and physiological responses.

Upcoming research will include in-person interviews with gamblers at local casinos and recruiting problem gamblers as the centre studies decision-making, according to the school.

Luke Clark, director of UBC's Centre for Gambling Research, sits at the school's newly opened casino lab. COURTESY UBC

Benefits. Group says SCC sided with union

A women's advocacy group says the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled in favour of the B.C. teachers' union in an employment dispute over maternity benefits.

At issue in the case between the B.C. Teachers' Federation and its employer were two types of special employment benefits covering pregnancy and parental leave.

The union argued the B.C. Public School Employers' Association was discriminating against female teachers by denying them parental benefits if they had already received pregnancy benefits. The B.C. Court of Appeal had ruled there was no unequal treatment of the women represented by the Surrey local of the BCTF.

West Coast Leaf, which intervened for the union, says the country's highest court has recognized the unique needs of pregnant women with its ruling, which is not yet available online. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Getting voters to pull in voters

Promote the Vote.
Online campaign strives to boost B.C. municipal election turnout

EMILY JACKSON
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A campaign to boost voter turnout wants you to talk your friends' ears off about the importance of voting in the municipal election on Saturday.

Promote the Vote, a new online campaign, is targeting citizens who already hit the polls, asking them to talk to their non-voting friends and family about politics before the election.

It's an effort to combat the dismal turnout from the 2011 municipal elections, where only one in three British Columbians bothered to cast their ballots.

The City of Vancouver is encouraging people to share on social media that they voted by posting selfies with their 'I voted' sticker. COURTESY CITY OF VANCOUVER

"There are other voter turnout campaigns out there, but most of them focus on reaching out to people who don't vote directly," campaign founder Patrick Lee said Wednesday.

"We're trying to mobilize a group of people who really care about voting and have them share their perspective, their reasons for voting and why voting is important to them."

Lee's campaign asks people to pledge to chat with someone they know that doesn't vote — given the paltry turnout, that shouldn't be hard — in an effort to boost engagement and dialogue.

He believes it's crucial to get more people voting so elected officials represent a wider will of the people, including groups less likely to vote such as young people and ethnic minorities. This lack of representation can lead to apathy, cynicism or just plain dissatisfaction with the political process, Lee said.

He hopes the PromoteTheVote.ca campaign will gain momentum and continue on to the federal election in 2015.

Voting locations will be open Saturday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. across Metro Vancouver. Bring identification — and the friends you convinced to vote.

Tim's manager guilty of manslaughter had 'dark side': Judge

The assistant manager of a Tim Hortons shop in northern B.C. had a "dark side" that led to him being sent to prison for manslaughter, said a judge.

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Ronald McKinnon noted that Ryan Beaulieu, now 29, had overcome a horrible childhood.

"Ryan's childhood was marked by extensive abuse and neglect, leaving one to wonder how he survived to adulthood," the judge said.

The judge added: "Ryan had, by dint of perseverance and hard work, obtained the level of assistant manager at a local Tim Hortons outlet. He was justifiably proud of this achievement.... Indeed, several RCMP members who testified at trial considered Ryan a very likable person who worked hard, and they were happy that in the period leading up to the offence, he had seemingly got his life on track."

But Beaulieu had a secret "dark side" of his life, often spending his days off binging on crack cocaine and alcohol with his younger brother Clayton, 25, who was unemployed and sometimes living in crack houses or with his brother.

It was during one of those binges in November 2011 that Beaulieu got upset with an intoxicated man visiting his apartment, Wesley Lulu-Gladue, whom Ryan hit over the head with a weightlifting bar.

Thinking he had killed the unconscious man, Ryan got Clayton to help drag the man into the bathtub, where Ryan inflicted the bulk of the 90-plus stab wounds.

Ryan and Clayton Beaulieu were both charged with second-degree murder, but Clayton was acquitted at trial and Ryan was found guilty of the lesser offence of manslaughter. Ryan Beaulieu had offered to plead guilty to manslaughter but the plea was rejected by the Crown, so the matter proceeded to trial.

The Crown asked the judge to impose a sentence of up to 14 years in prison, while the defence suggested eight years was appropriate, minus the four years and four months credit for time served.

The judge imposed a 10-year sentence, minus the time served in pre-trial custody, leaving five years and eight months remaining to be served.

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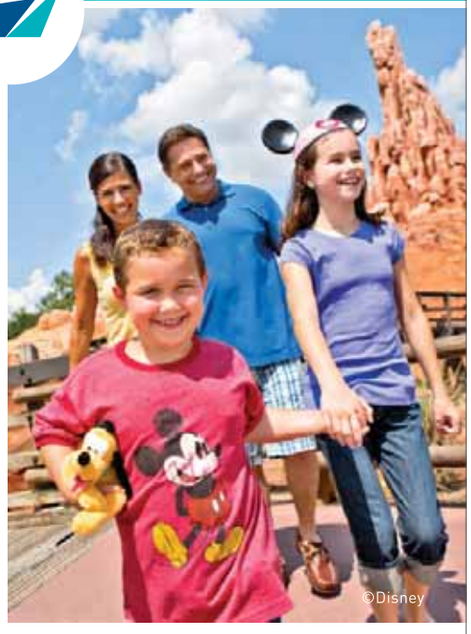

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Therapy dogs helping stressed SFU students

'My heart melted as soon as I touched her.' Student says she feels more relaxed, calm and ready to go study after interaction

THANDI FLETCHER
thandi.fletcher@metronews.ca

A Simon Fraser University student pets a puppy from the Pacific Assistance Dogs Society. The puppies are visiting all three of the university's campuses this month to help students cope with exam stress. COURTESY SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Simon Fraser University is enlisting the help of some furry support staff to help students de-stress during exam time.

Labrador puppies from the Pacific Assistance Dogs Society, or PADS, will be visiting all three of the university's campuses this month to help students cope with anxiety as the fall terms winds down and exams get underway.

The program is the brainchild of SFU's director of health and counselling services Martin Mroz, who brought his Belgian shepherd dog Maya to campus two years ago to help international students cope with stress and homesickness.

"They're away from home and they miss their pet," he said. "And you're not allowed to have pets in residence."

Since then, the university has partnered with PADS to bring puppies to campus. The program is a win-win, said Mroz, as the puppies, in training to become assistance dogs for people with disabilities, get to practise socialization skills and the students can cuddle with the canines.

For many students, Mroz said their entire demeanour changes as soon as they see the furry friends.

"They're all smiles," he said. "Being in proximity to animals like this has shown to lower anxiety levels, improve mood and decrease blood pressure."

An SFU student who was interviewed on camera after meeting Maya said interacting with the dog helped her cope with exam stress.

"Being with a dog, I just feel so relaxed and calm," she said. "My heart melted as soon as I touched her. I feel like I'm ready to go study after this."

But Mroz said the program isn't just about pups comforting students. While he anticipated that happening at first, Mroz said he was surprised to see the opposite unfolding.

"The nurturing is going the other way, and we need that," he said. "Humans are nurturing creatures. We have a need to nurture."

SFU isn't the first university to bring dogs to campus in a bid to help students alleviate anxiety. The University of Manitoba, University of Saskatoon, University of Toronto and York University have all run similar programs in advance of exams.

The puppy therapy sessions start Thursday with a session from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Saywell Hall atrium on SFU's Burnaby campus.

Environmental group simulates oil spill

Visitors to English Bay on Wednesday saw firsthand the damage an oil tanker spill might cause to B.C.'s coast.

Using Oculus Rift virtual-reality headsets hidden inside an old-fashioned set of coin-operated binoculars, Victoria-based environmental group Dogwood Initiative showed unsuspecting viewers an animated 3D depiction of what they say would happen if an oil tanker ran aground near English Bay.

The image shows a dying orca whale, sand coated in bitumen and thick clouds of black smoke billowing into the sky from flaming pools of oil while spill vessels attempt to contain the leaking crude oil.

While the scene may seem alarming, Kai Nagata, Dogwood's energy and democracy director, said the image simulates only a small-scale oil spill affecting just one beach.

"It ain't pretty," he told Metro. "The fact is that a full-blown spill … would affect millions of people."

The group decided to stage the scenario just days before the municipal election to encourage voters to support candidates that are opposed to B.C. exporting crude oil, said Nagata. THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Dogwood Initiative simulated an oil tanker spill on Vancouver's English Bay using Oculus Rift virtual reality technology. COURTESY DOGWOOD INITIATIVE

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Mission
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32670 Lougheed Hwy.

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North Vancouver
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Port Coquitlam
2020 Oxford Connector

Richmond
Lansdowne Centre
Richmond Centre
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Surrey
Central City Shopping Centre
Cloverdale Crossing
Grandview Corners
Guildford Town Centre
Semiahmoo Shopping Centre
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7380 King George Blvd.
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CBC execs saw video of woman's injuries

Ghomeshi. Broadcaster fired Q host after images from his phone showed bruises apparently caused by a cracked rib, sources say

Leading up to the weekend of October 25-26, two CBC executives were invited to the Toronto offices of Denton LLP, a law firm retained by the then Q host Jian Ghomeshi, who was facing allegations that his alleged rough treatment of women was about to become front page news.

After hearing and seeing Ghomeshi's side of the story on Thursday, Oct. 23, CBC executives Chris Boyce and Chuck Thompson left Denton and reported to their bosses that it was "much bigger than we ever thought," a source told Torstar News Service. Ghomeshi was put on leave of absence that day.

According to sources, the CBC executives were shown a variety of information, including a video and text messages, by the Denton lawyers in attendance at the meeting.

Sources say that the video is of a woman who Ghomeshi had dated in the past 10 years. The video shows bruising to the woman's body (she is partially covered in the video) and information provided to CBC that weekend, including text messages Ghomeshi had on his phone, refer to a "cracked rib." A large bruise could be seen on the side of her body.

As Torstar has reported previously, Ghomeshi showed information that, in his opinion, revealed how a person can be bruised during sex and it could "still be consensual," said one source with a close connection to Ghomeshi's strategy that day. Ghomeshi has said he is a practitioner of BDSM — bondage-dominance-sadism-masochism.

Ghomeshi refers to his meetings in his $55 million lawsuit against CBC, filed in court after his firing. In the suit, he states that in the days leading up to his firing he showed "sensitive and private exchanges" involving a woman he had a relationship with. Ghomeshi states that after he showed the material CBC was satisfied that he "had not engaged in non-consensual sex."

Former Q host Jian Ghomeshi faces multiple allegations of assault. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

In Torstar's ongoing investigation into allegations that Ghomeshi has attacked women on dates, women have alleged that they have been struck with open and closed hands on various parts of the body and choked. Torstar has heard of multiple allegations from women interviewed as part of the paper's investigation.

The women have told Torstar of bruising, including bruising to the face and head, often in areas of the head covered by hair. Women who have made these allegations say they did not consent to these attacks.

Ghomeshi has not provided detailed responses to questions from Torstar, though he has said in a statement posted on Facebook that all of his sexual activities are consensual.

In the Facebook posting he refers to his meeting with CBC in late October.

"On Thursday I voluntarily showed evidence that everything I have done has been consensual. I did this in good faith and because I know, as I have always known, that I have nothing to hide," Ghomeshi wrote.

"CBC execs confirmed that the information provided showed that there was consent. In fact, they later said to me and my team that there is no question in their minds that there has always been consent. They said they're not concerned about the legal side. But then they said that this type of sexual behaviour was unbecoming of a prominent host on the CBC," Ghomeshi stated in his posting.

Ghomeshi, writing to his legions of fans two weeks ago, said that he understands that his preferred approach to sex may not appeal to everyone.

He said his practices may be "strange, enticing, weird, normal, or outright offensive to others. We all have our secret life."

According to sources, CBC did not leave the meeting at Ghomeshi's law firm with the original video or a copy of the video.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Investigation

Toronto police are investigating allegations from three women who have come forward.

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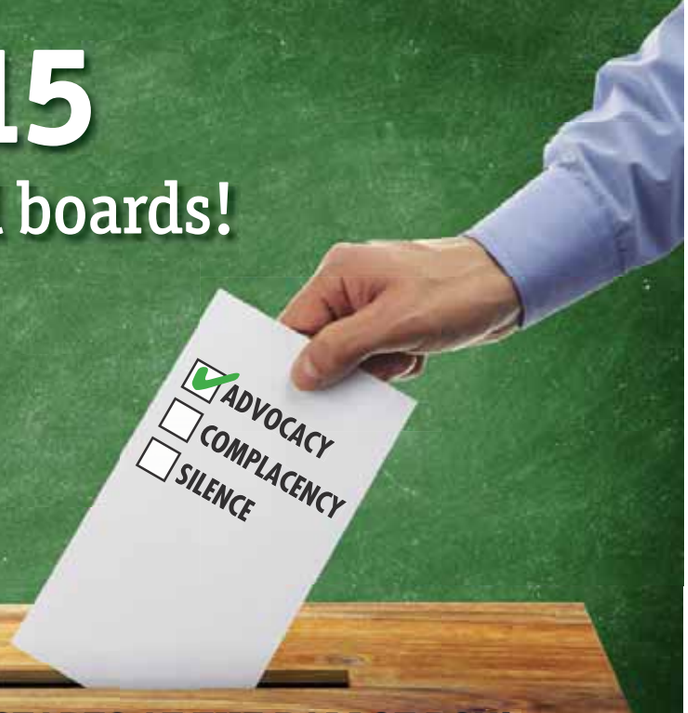

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One that didn't get away.
Fishermen find dino fossil

Severe flooding in southwestern Alberta in 2013 may be responsible for two fishermen discovering the 80-million-year-old fossil of a possible new dinosaur species.

A 1,300-kilogram boulder the men found in the Castle River, southwest of Lethbridge, in September contains a partial skull, neck and chest of a duck-billed dinosaur. Officials at the Royal Tyrrell Museum believe floodwater dislodged the big rock and sent it rolling down the river where the fishermen spotted it.

The retrieved specimen will undergo research by museum scientists over the next several months to determine whether it is a new species.

Royal Tyrrell spokeswoman Carrie-Anne Lunde said paleontology staff believe the skull is intact and in its original shape. This is considered surprising as fossils are typically found crushed and flattened.

Hadrosaurs were herbivores and have been found in Asia, Europe and North America.

The are also known as duck-billed dinosaurs due to the similarity of their head to that of modern ducks.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lethal control programs

Hunted wolves stressed out: Study

Wolves in areas where they are heavily hunted have higher levels of stress and reproductive hormones which alters a wolf pack's elaborate social structure and might have evolutionary consequences, says a study by scientists from B.C., Alberta and Israel.

The Raincoast Conservation Foundation, which opposes B.C.'s grey wolf management plan, says the study highlights that lethal control programs should take psychological and social effects on animals into account, not just numbers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians double time spent online, study finds

Short-track speed skater Francois Hamelin checks his iPad during a training session earlier this year. Apps for smartphones and tablets are driving a spike in how much time Canadians spend online, a study by comScore found.

CLIVE MASON/GETTY IMAGES

Not a PC world. About 1.3 million Canadians now strictly use mobile devices to go online, comScore says

As Canadians continue to get hooked on their smartphones, tablets and streaming video, they're almost doubling the time they spend online, according to measurement firm comScore.

As of August, there were about 27.8 million Canadian adults accessing the Internet with a computer, comScore reports. On average, they spent almost 39 hours a month browsing the web with a desktop or laptop. But when accounting for watching Internet video and using mobile devices, the average time spent online shot up to nearly 75 hours a month.

Canadians in the 25-to-34 demographic were seen to be spending the most time online, averaging around 110 hours a month. Only about 50 of those hours were linked to web browsing on a computer.

The oldest Canadians tracked by comScore, ages 55 and older, were spending just 20 or so hours with a mobile device or streaming video a month. The bulk of their online hours were devoted to web browsing on a computer.

App usage accounts for over 80 per cent of the time Canadians spend online with a mobile device, versus just 20 per cent spent using a web browser, comScore says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Smartphones

78%

About 78 per cent of all Canadians owning a cellphone were using a smartphone — second highest behind Spain among the countries comScore tracks (and ahead of the U.K., the U.S. and Italy).

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Finance. $1.9B surplus projected for 2015, $4.5B less than was expected

Next year's federal budget surplus will be $1.9 billion, the Finance Department says — $4.5 billion less than expected, thanks in large part to the Harper government's multibillion-dollar cost-cutting proposals for families.

Federal Finance Minister Joe Oliver
THE CANADIAN PRESS

The expected surplus, unveiled Wednesday in the government's fall fiscal and economic update, is a far cry from the $6.4-billion surplus projected in February's budget.

That's because of the Conservative government's recently announced family-friendly tax and benefit initiatives, which will consume an estimated $27 billion from public coffers between 2014-15 and 2019-20.

Finance Minister Joe Oliver, who delivered the update at a luncheon in Toronto, defended the measures, which include higher child-care benefits and a controversial income-splitting plan for families with children.

"We are providing families this financial relief for a simple reason," Oliver said. "Across Canada, Canadians are telling us the same thing.

"The cost of everything, from groceries, to hydro, to housing, is going up."

The update projected that Canada would run a $2.9-billion shortfall this fiscal year, matching the government's projection in the federal February budget.

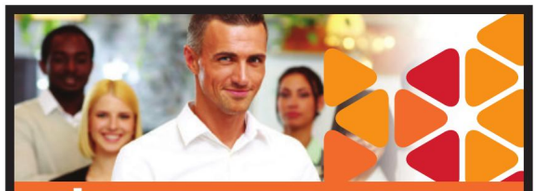
Nonetheless, the federal government is projecting five straight years of surpluses: $4.3 billion in 2016-17, $5.1 billion in 2017-18, $6.8 billion in 2018-19 and $13.1 billion in 2019-20.

In the short term, however, it remains unclear whether the Harper government will have enough leftover cash to introduce additional cost-cutting.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winnipeg cops make arrests in two alleged assault cases

Winnipeg police Supt. Danny Smyth announces at a press conference in Winnipeg Wednesday that they have arrested two suspects in the alleged beating and sexual assault of a 16-year-old girl. Police say the suspects are also believed to have attacked a second woman on the same night. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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ESA lander touches down on comet

Glimpse into the past. Scientists hope Philae's comet-landing data will unlock some of Earth's early secrets

Hundreds of millions of miles from Earth, a spacecraft made history Wednesday by successfully landing on the surface of a speeding comet — an audacious first designed to answer the universe's big questions.

The landing on comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko required precision, as even the slightest error could have resulted in cosmic calamity.

Indications were that the spacecraft touched down almost perfectly, save for an unplanned bounce, said Stephan Ulamec, head of the lander operation.

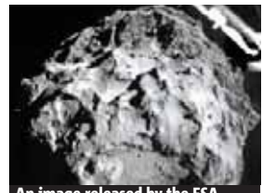
But thrusters that were meant to push the lander, called Philae, onto the surface, and harpoons that would have anchored it to the comet failed to deploy properly. Initial data from the spacecraft indicated that it lifted off again, turned and then came to rest.

"Today we didn't just land once; we maybe even landed twice," said Ulamec.

The landing is the highlight of Rosetta's decade-long mission to study comets and learn more about the origins of these celestial bodies. Scientists have likened these comets — believed to number in the trillions — to time capsules that are virtually unchanged since the earliest moments of the universe.

"By studying one in enormous detail, we can hope to unlock the puzzle of all of the others," said Mark McCaughrean, a senior scientific adviser to the mission.

The mission will also give researchers the opportunity to test the theory that comets brought organic matter and water to Earth billions of years ago, said Klim Churyumov, one of the two astronomers who discovered the comet in 1969. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



An image released by the ESA Wednesday shows the comet's surface as Philae descends from Rosetta. ESA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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How about that view?

Two workers are seen stuck on scaffolding 69 stories above street level. The window washers were trapped for more than an hour Wednesday as they dangled on the side of 1 World Trade Center before firefighters were able to cut through the new skyscraper's glass and pull them to safety, seen in inset. KATHY WILLENS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Evasive manoeuvres

ISS avoids collision with space debris

The International Space Station is out of harm's way after flying higher to avoid space junk.

Flight controllers raised the station's orbit by a mile Wednesday due to small debris from an old Chinese satellite that was going to come dangerously close.

Had they not, by late morning the debris would have come within seven tenths of a mile of the ISS's location. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wisconsin

Girl accused of murder fit for trial

A state doctor believes the mental condition of one of two girls accused of stabbing a classmate to please the fictional horror character Slender Man has improved and she is fit to stand trial, a Wisconsin judge said Wednesday.

The judge had ordered mental health treatment for the girl, 12, who claimed to see and hear things, including unicorns, Slender Man and Voldemort of Harry Potter fame. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New book brought to you by Land Rover

Art + commerce.
Author's branded book has shaken and stirred the literary community

Soon after turning out the latest James Bond novel, British author William Boyd agreed to write another thriller based on a world-famous brand.

The Land Rover.

Boyd's nearly 17,000-word story, The Vanishing Game, coming out Wednesday as a free download through Amazon.com, Apple and www.thevanishinggame.com, tells of a 35-year-old British actor named Alec Dunbar and the troubles he encounters when a pretty young woman convinces him to deliver a flask filled with clear liquid from London to Scotland. His transport is a certain four-wheel-drive vehicle.

Boyd, paid in the low six figures for the project, said he signed on because Land Rover made so few requests.

"They said they wanted an adventure and they said, 'Somewhere in this adventure it would be good if a Land Rover appeared,'" the 62-year-old author said during a recent telephone interview. He said it was left entirely up to him how prominent a role the vehicle would play.

Boyd's story can be read as a traditional book or as an interactive narrative through the dedicated website. An audio track features a voiceover and music. Photographs and moving images provide a backdrop to the words.

The literary community has mostly shunned commercial endorsements, although there are precedents for Boyd's book. In 2001, Fay Weldon was commissioned by Bulgari to write The Bulgari Connection, in which she worked in references to the jewelry company. Julia Alvarez wrote a poem for Absolut vodka, and several authors, including Elmore Leonard and Lisa Scottoline, contributed essays for a 1990s Coca-Cola campaign.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Music Key. Will YouTube hit the right note with new subscription service?

Google is remixing the music on its YouTube video site with the addition of ad-free subscription service Music Key and a new format designed to make it easier to find millions of songs that can still be played for free.

The subscription service is part of Google's effort to mine more revenue from YouTube as the video site approaches the 10th anniversary of its inception. Music Key has been speculated about for months while Google Inc. wrangled over the licensing terms with recording labels. The service, priced initially at $8 US a month, is comparable in cost to other digital music subscription services sold by Spotify, Apple Inc.'s Beats and Google's own 18-month-old streaming service tied to its Android "Play" store. But Music Key subscribers will be able to stream through the Google Play service at no additional charge, too.

YouTube also is unveiling a new tab devoted exclusively to music on its mobile apps and website. This option is meant to make it easier for the video site's 1 billion users to find specific songs and entire albums, even if they aren't subscribers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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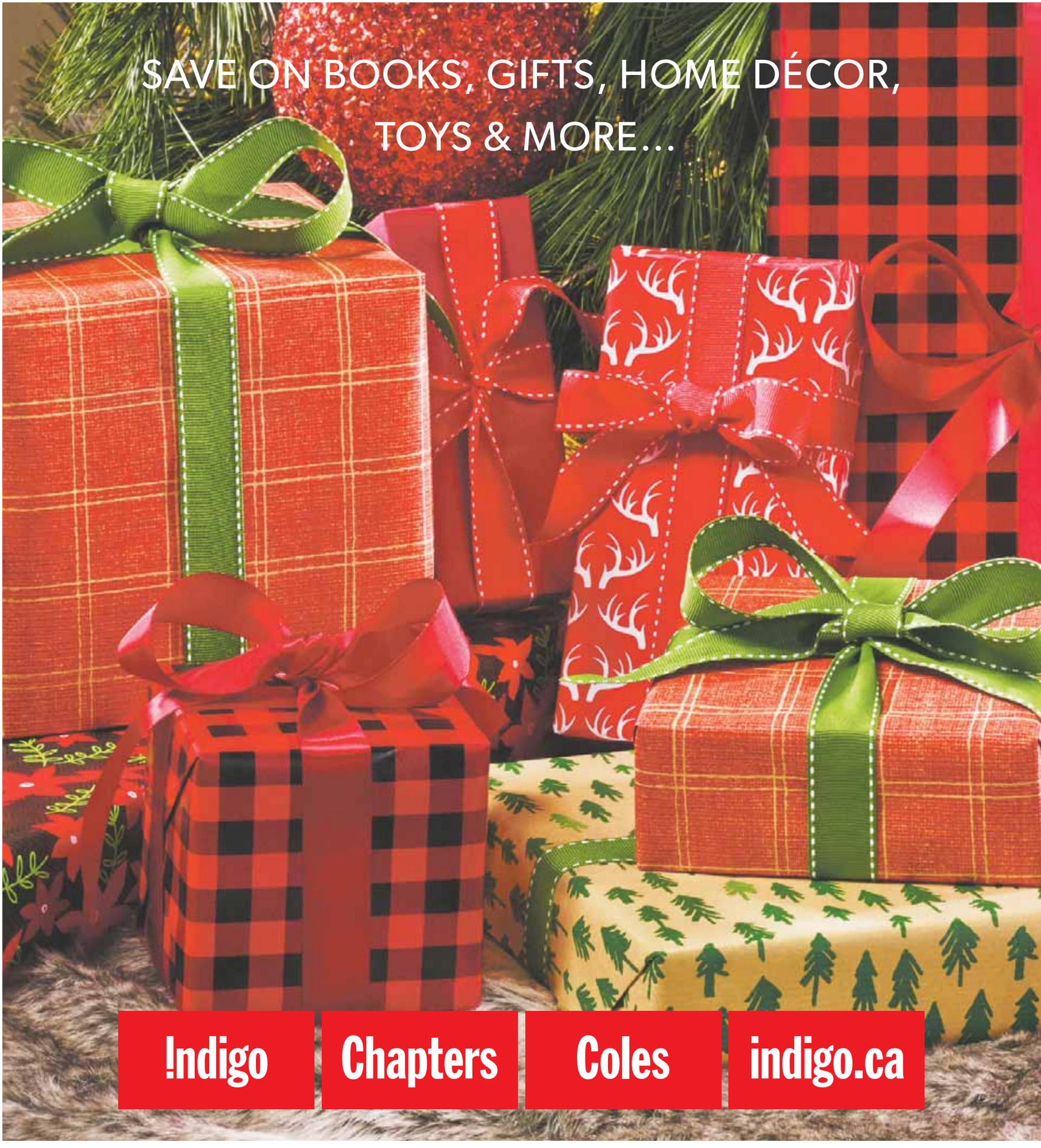
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CHEAP TRICKS FOR DIRTY DEEDS

URBAN COMPASS

Paul Sullivan
vancouver@metronews.ca

Politicians are always complaining about being misquoted by the media, but it's not often the other way around — the press getting misquoted by the politicians.

It's kinda like Man Bites Dog.

In this case the man is Gregor Robertson and Vision Vancouver and the dog is Metro Vancouver.

And it looks as if Robertson's bite is at least as bad as his bark. Allow me to explain.

The misquotes in question turn up on a website called theywinyoulose.com, which barks at Vision's opponent in Saturday's upcoming election, the Non-Partisan Association (NPA), using prominent quotes taken from local media, including Metro.

In one quote from Metro it sounds as if this newspaper is opposed to an NPA plan to axe a city program that encourages developers to build rental units as a "huge step backwards" for renters.

But really, the Vision spinmeisters make it look that way by deleting the final, critical phrase: "Vision Vancouver argued Wednesday."

We're just reporting Vision's position, not endorsing it. Big difference!

The other one is even worse. The Courier reported that NPA mayoralty candidate Kirk Lapointe reiterated his party's interest in Kinder Morgan's pipeline proposal to Burnaby but only if "the National Energy Board set conditions that made it 'the safest project in the world.'"

That last part didn't make the Vision cut, so it sounds as if The Courier is reporting that LaPointe likes pipelines without reservation. As opposed to the exact opposite.

Once again, Vision uses and abuses the news to ramp up the heat on its opponent. While they are at it, they also unilaterally enlist Metro and The Courier in their rewriting of history.

Robertson is unrepentant. "I think they are represented as they showed up," he said Monday about the quotes.

Uh, no. See above.

This is rich. Robertson has pretty thin skin for a mayor and is even suing the NPA for defamation as it continues to characterize a union donation to Vision as a payoff.

When does one party sue the other during an election campaign?

I realize there's not much sympathy for the media when we're misquoted.

It's just karma, you might think. But think again. The first victim here is the truth; the second is you, the voter. In a really tight race between Vision and the NPA, it won't take much to put one over the top and leave the other a crumpled heap at the side of the road. So an accurate read-out of where the parties stand on issues is more critical than usual. Check that. An accurate read-out of where the parties stand is always critical.

The NPA criticizes Vision for running the least transparent government in the country, which, until this week, sounded a bit shrill. But Vision's not helping itself by playing dirty little tricks with the news.

No more chasing tail

Red deer graze following the end of the rutting season on Wednesday in Glen Etive, Scotland. The rutting season sees the large red deer stags compete against each other for mating rights and they can be heard roaring and bellowing in an attempt to attract the hinds. The rut draws to a close in early November when the males will spend the winter feeding to regain strength for the following year's season. JEFF J. MITCHELL/GETTY IMAGES

Calm after mating storm for red deer

After months of butting horns, chasing tail and avoiding gunshots, the male red deer population of Scotland can finally relax and look forward to quieter times.

The exhausting rutting season has just come to an end in Glen Etive, Scotland.

Deer and other ruminant mammals engage in rutting season, which is triggered by shorter day lengths, in the fall.

During this mating season, stags will rub their antlers on trees, fight each other (sometimes leading to serious injury) and attempt to herd females in estrus together.

Since throwing caution to the wind in their attempt to hook up with as many females as possible makes them easy targets, the breeding season is also a popular time for hunting.

The stags are often in rough shape after the rut, and now is the time for them to rest. METRO

Weight loss

20%

All that chasing and fighting can result in a huge weight loss. Some research shows losses of as high as 20 per cent of a stag's total body weight.

MetroTube

Puppy ploy

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

SCREENGRAB

The dogs we know and love today began diverging from wolves after they figured out that hanging around people and snacking on trash was a better deal than buffalo hunts. And then evolution took care of the rest. Well, Charlie the Beagle's attempt to barter a beloved toy for a some sweet, sweet table scraps is the next stage of that evolution — a domestic animal merchant class. Just keep them away from any copies of Atlas Shrugged. (CharlieDaDog/YouTube)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: The Philae probe has landed on a comet, the first time this sort of feat has been pulled off. What's up next for humanity?

@potakak: Find the Obelisk....

@justinhartling: a constant loop of "don't wanna miss a thing" by Aerosmith.

metro AR

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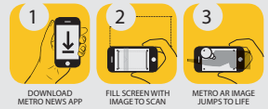

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FAMILY FUN GUIDE

BY STEPHANIE ORFORD

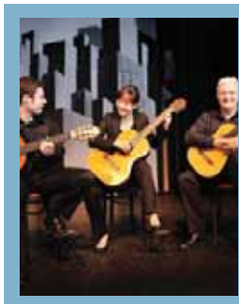
Where to go, what to do and how to get there. Here are this week's activity listings

THE ART OF TIBET

Get an up-close look at vibrant Thangka paintings, scrolls, photographs, and a display about Tibetan history. The exhibit, Celebrate Colour, is open from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Free at UBC's Centre for Asian Studies, 1871 West Mall, UBC. Until Nov. 14. For more, go to asia.ubc.ca.

BRUSH WORK

Inspired by the Vancouver Art Gallery Exhibit The Forbidden City, gallery visitors between ages 5 and 12 are invited to practice the traditional Chinese form of writing, calligraphy. Sunday, Nov. 16, noon – 4 p.m. at The Making Place at the Vancouver Art Gallery (750 Hornby St.). Free with admission. For more, go to vancouverartgallery.org.



TRES GUITARRAS

Three intrepid guitarists help viewers learn about worldwide guitar traditions from Jacobean England, baroque and classical Italy, modern Spain, South America, and more. Nov. 14, 11:45 a.m. –12:45 p.m. at the BlueShore Financial Centre for the Performing Arts in North Vancouver (2055 Purcell Way, North Vancouver). Free.

SPOTLIGHT ON PORPOISES

Learn about the complex behaviours of porpoises at a family-friendly talk by a world-renowned expert on the species. Thursday, Nov. 13, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Vancouver Aquarium (845 Avison Way). $10 for non-members, $8 for members. For more, go to vanaqua.org.

NORSE WINTER FESTIVAL

On Nov. 15, relive Vikings' centuries-old celebration traditions at the Surrey Museum (17710 - 56A Avenue). Listen to the Santa Lucia choir and make crafts too. 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Admission free or by donation. For more, go to surrey.ca.

KIDS CRAFTS, STORYTIME

Join in this free, South Pole-themed storytime at Lougheed Town Centre Saturday, Nov. 15 at 10:30 a.m. outside London Drugs in the mall. Three professional entertainers from Oui Entertain Events take kids through an hour of interactive stories and 'p-p-p-penguin' crafts. For more, visit lougheedtowncentre.com.

"Someday I'd like to play on Team Canada." *– Madison, age 8*

Every kid has a someday. It may be something fantastical like flying to the moon, something practical like following their dad into construction or something we all can relate to like wanting to be surrounded by love. No matter what it is, we want to give them the support they need to get there. That's why we're pledging $100 million over five years to help over a million children do just that. Let's make every kid's someday™ happen.

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SCENE 2

Yes, this is a puppet show, but it sure ain't for kids

Avenue Q. Musical warns of everything from nudity, sex and booze to cute creatures doing bad things

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

Avenue Q, an irreverent puppet musical for adults, returns to Arts Club's Granville Island Stage from Nov. 20 to Jan. 3. DAVID COOPER/ARTS CLUB

Can you tell me how to get, how to get to Avenue Q?

Why? Because, my puppet-loving peeps, this ain't Sesame Street.

This is an irreverent Broadway musical for adults. And it's back at the Arts Club's Granville Island Stage from Nov. 20 to Jan. 3.

It tells the musical story of Princeton, a wide-eyed college graduate who arrives in New York City looking for love, work, and a purpose in life. The only neighbourhood he can afford is the multicultural melting pot of Avenue Q, a peculiar place populated by puppets and people.

Yes, this is a puppet show. But be warned: "Full puppet nudity and other vulgarities will induce laughter," the website explains.

"This is not your kids' puppet show as it sneaks a peek at raucous sexual congress, failed childhood stardom, excessive drinking, moving in and out of a slummy neighborhood, investing, mix-tapes, cute creatures doing bad things, singing boxes, getting laid off, finding your purpose, getting fired, getting re-hired, ruvving someone but wanting to kirr them (whatever that is), exotic dancing, erotic dancing, exotic erotic dancing, homosexuality, racism, pornography, masturbation, interracial marriage, interspecies relationships..."

(Seriously, the list keeps going.)

"The music is playful, the lyrics are outrageous, the script is hilarious, and the characters are delightful," says director Peter Jorgensen.

"Underneath its colourful fur, a big, boisterous heart beats. Avenue Q is the perfect musical comedy — unless you're under 14 years of age."

Also happening

Irish Celtic supergroup The Gloaming — made up of fiddle master Martin Hayes, singer Iarla O Lionaird, guitarist Dennis Cahill, hardanger fiddler Coaimhin O Raghallaigh and pianist Thomas Bartlett (a.k.a. Doveman) — plays at Chan Centre on Nov. 15. Tickets start at $36. More information at chancentre.com.

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Actors. Wahlberg's weight loss freaked out Michael Bay

Mark Wahlberg said Transformers director Michael Bay "freaked out" after the actor shed 60 pounds to play a down-on-his-luck college professor in his new movie, The Gambler.

Wahlberg began downsizing his famously muscular physique by jumping rope and sticking to a liquid diet as Transformers: Age of Extinction wrapped last year. He then shot The Gambler, set to open in theatres Dec. 19.

Transformers producers called for additional shooting after The Gambler wrapped, and Wahlberg wasn't exactly welcomed with open arms when he attended Bay's housewarming party earlier this year.

"He goes, 'You look like crap! What are you going to do? We've got to shoot in five weeks,"' Wahlberg said in an interview before his new film's AFI Fest premiere Monday night.

"I probably put on 40 pounds back. But it still wasn't enough for him. He said, 'Aw, I've got to shoot you like this to make you look cool again,"' the 43-year-old actor said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Wahlberg lost 40 pounds for his role in The Gambler, much to the chagrin of Transformers producer Michael Bay. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reunion. De Niro tapped to work with JLaw again

Robert De Niro is in talks to join the next feature from David O. Russell, who directed De Niro and Jennifer Lawrence in the 2012 film Silver Linings Playbook.

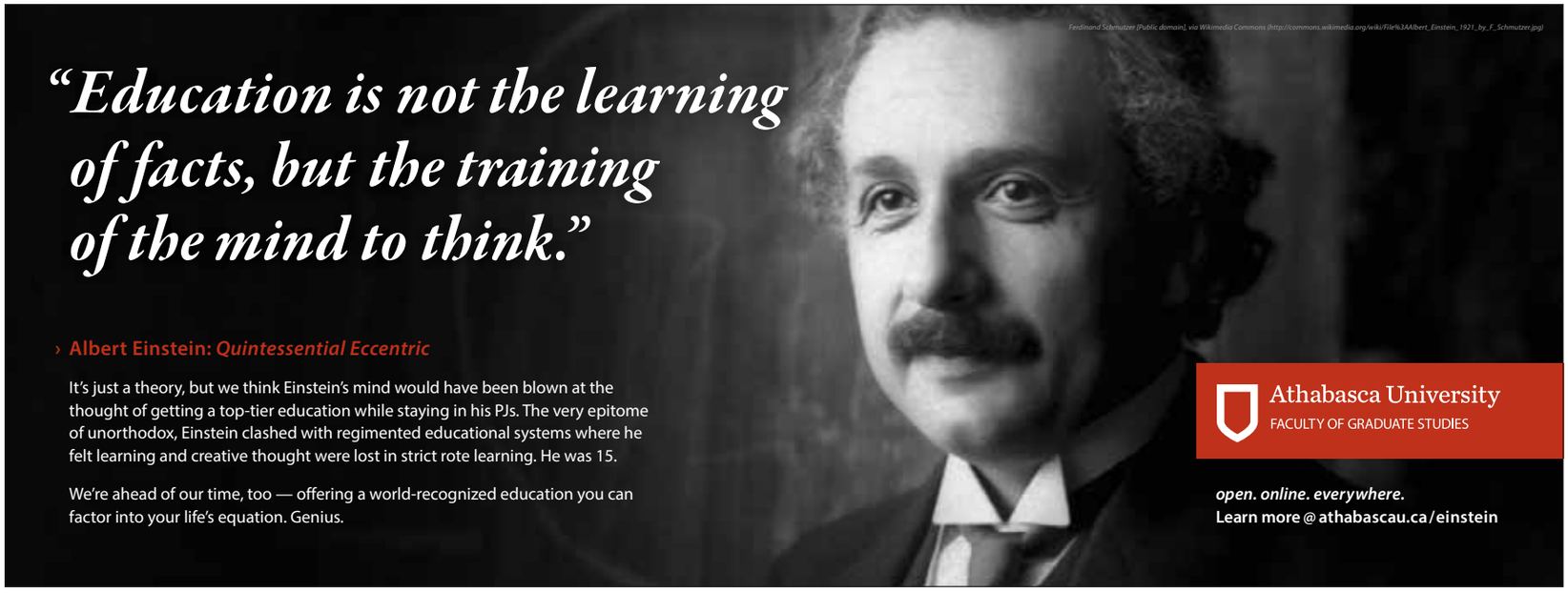
The film, titled Joy, is inspired by the biography of Joy Mangano, the single mother of three who invented the Miracle Mop and made a fortune in the 1990s selling the product on the Home Shopping Network.

While Jennifer Lawrence has been attached in the title role since January, The Hollywood Reporter learned this week that Robert De Niro is in talks to play her father.

The two actors previously worked together in David O. Russell's Silver Linings Playbook. Lawrence was also seen in the director's most recent film, American Hustle, for which she earned a Golden Globe for best supporting actress.

Joy is due in theatres on December 25, 2015.

AFP


"Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think."
Ferdinand Schmutzer [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons (http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3AAlbert_Einstein_1921_by_F._Schmutzer.jpg)
› Albert Einstein: Quintessential Eccentric
It's just a theory, but we think Einstein's mind would have been blown at the thought of getting a top-tier education while staying in his PJs. The very epitome of unorthodox, Einstein clashed with regimented educational systems where he felt learning and creative thought were lost in strict rote learning. He was 15.
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Harry and Lloyd are just putting out the vibe

Movies. Twenty years after Dumb and Dumber, Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels say it was easy to reprise their roles as a couple of sweet savants

Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels made another Dumb & Dumber film because fans asked for it, and the two actors said making the sequel was more fun than working on the 1994 original.

"We were kind of just meeting each other as we were doing the first one," Daniels said in a recent interview to support the release of the film.

"You got two different acting styles going on — is it going to even work? And the first one, we guessed right, and it did ...

"Now it's just a lot easier. We know more, we know what's funny, we know the two characters well — all the stuff we didn't know in the first one we already know in the second one, so we just get to do it again, only we hope better."

"And we were blood doping," Carrey added.

"So that made it easier."

Daniels and Carrey reprise their roles as painfully dim pals Harry and Lloyd in Dumb & Dumber To, opening Friday.

Reuniting on a sequel 20 years after the original wasn't hard, Carrey said.

"Honestly, it was like we just did it yesterday and boom, we were back in it," he said.

"It was a fantastic, familiar feeling."

Daniels was delighted to return to comedy after spending the past three seasons starring in the Aaron Sorkin TV drama, The Newsroom.

"Comedy is a joy," he said.

"There's a freedom to it. There's a fearlessness to it that you don't get in everything else.

"It was a thrill to do," he added.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels said in the first Dumb and Dumber, they took a risk riffing off each other's unique acting styles. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Give your coffee table a makeover

What's inspiring, pretty to look at and can instantly show your guests just what great taste you've got? A coffee-table book, of course. Luckily, a slew of glossy fashion and beauty tomes have recently been released. Whether you're holiday gift-hunting or just want to treat yourself, these titles are worth checking out

EMILY LAURENCE/ METRO IN NEW YORK CITY

Refinery 29: Style Stalking

Women's fashion and lifestyle website Refinery 29's new book is full of cool-girl street style. Not only does it explain how to master trends like tomboy-chic and modern metallics, it teaches readers how to develop their own signature style.

Vogue & The Metropolitan Museum Of Art Costume Institute: Parties, Exhibitions, People

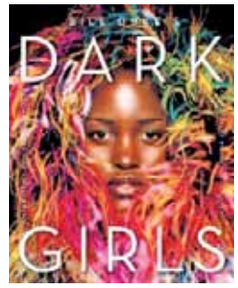
This massive, glossy-paged tome gives readers an up-close look at the annual Met gala, and the exhibits that inspired each theme, such as 2001's Jacqueline Kennedy: The White House Years.

Miles of MAC

There is almost no text in this oversized, 250-page hardcover, but the photos speak volumes. Models in candy-coloured eyeshadows and lipsticks showcase the boundary-pushing esthetic that has been MAC's signature since its 1987 launch.

Dark Girls

What originated as a documentary on Oprah's network is now a beautiful hardback. Stunning photos of more than 75 women, including Lupita Nyong'o, Vanessa Williams, Loretta Devine and Judge Mablean Ephriam are included, but just as powerful are their stories about prejudices they've faced.



Tory Burch: In Color

Fashion designer Tory Burch's first book isn't just an exploration of her style esthetic, but also what inspires her interior design, her favourite places all over the world and photos from her childhood.

Make Up: Your Life Guide to Beauty, Style, and Success — Online and Off

YouTube star-turned-entrepreneur Michelle Phan shares her secrets to success — and not just her makeup secrets. Phan's modest approach to life makes it easy to believe you can have it all.

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TV. Mandy Moore loves stirring the pot on Red Band

Mandy Moore GETTY IMAGES FILE

Mandy Moore has stepped back into the spotlight with a recurring role on Fox's Red Band Society.

Red Band Society (airing Wednesdays at 8 p.m. EST) follows doctors and their long-term teen patients at a children's hospital.

Moore, a singer-actress known for her pop hit Candy, plays Dr. Erin Grace, the new chief of surgery. Her character had worked at the hospital, but took a year off to work with Doctors Without Borders. She had also dated Dave Annable's character, Dr. Adam McAndrew, and her promotion is one that he was gunning for.

"I've been brought in to sort of stir it up on the adult side," said Moore in a recent interview.

She was approached about the show before the part was written. She "loved everything" about the pilot.

"I really thought it was such a unique tone from everything else on TV right now," she said.

The 30-year-old, known for such films as A Walk to Remember and Saved!, wanted a job in television.

"I think it's the most enticing medium for an actor out there right now," she said.

Moore said she's been recording and hopes to release something early next year.

"The music industry has changed so dramatically in the last couple of years. It's a different mechanism in terms of how to put music out there and in what capacity. Having the freedom of no record label and none of that expectation is really nice on a creative level."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Television

Jackson confirms he's quitting American Idol

Bad news for fans of original-recipe American Idol. The last remaining Season 1 judge, Randy Jackson, has announced he is leaving the show for good. Jackson wasn't technically a judge for the 13th season of the series — he stepped into the role of mentor — but now he's leaving for good. "After 13 seasons, I felt now was the perfect time to leave," he told People magazine. For those keeping track, Paula Abdul thought that perfect time was 2009, while Simon Cowell thought it was a year later. Ryan Seacrest, on the other hand, is perfectly happy sticking around and asking audiences to send text messages. Season 14 returns in January. METRO

Randy Jackson
GETTY IMAGES FILE

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a hearth to be lighted."

› Irene Parlby: *Progressive Prairie Patron*

Irene knew a little something about the road less traveled. She cast aside her very formal Victorian roots to plant some good ol' Albertan ones, and likely saved lives doing it.

She made her own way, pushing for important medical advantages like hospitals and mobile dental care for rural Albertan women and children in the 1900s. Her unexpected love of frontier life, and a farmer, sparked her influential journey. So who knows? Maybe we're just the thing to spark yours.

Photocredit: Glenbow Museum

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Mad Men wrap was a teary affair, Paré says

Television. Canadian star of popular drama says that the cast feels fortunate they got to end their story

Mad Men star Jessica Paré says it's been tough saying goodbye to the series.

"We're done and that's kind of painful," the Montreal-raised actress said at this week's Scotiabank Giller Prize in Toronto.

The AMC period drama's final season was split in half, with the first seven of 14 episodes debuting last spring and the rest set to air early next year.

Paré — who plays Don Draper's wife, Megan — said it was an emotional time when they finished shooting the last half of the seventh and final season in June.

"It was very teary," said the 33-year-old. "We're fortunate that we get to tell the end of our story. It's not a luxury afforded to many on TV, so I think it's a privilege. But I'm going to miss everybody."

Paré's Giller showing marked her first gala appearance since announcing last month that she's pregnant with her first child, with Quebec musician John Kastner.

She was at the Giller to present The Girl Who Was Saturday Night by Montreal's Heather O'Neill, who was one of six finalists for the $100,000 literary prize.

Sean Michaels of Montreal ended up winning the award for Us Conductors.

As a fellow Montrealer, Paré said she identified with O'Neill's book, which follows teenage twin children of a beloved Québécois folk singer. She's also a big fan of CanLit.

Quoted

"I've read so many. Margaret Laurence and Margaret Atwood are among my favourites."

Actress Jessica Paré, on her love for Canadian literature

"I've read so many (Canadian authors)," said Paré, whose other credits include the films Lost and Delirious and Suck.

"Margaret Laurence and Margaret Atwood are among my favourites of all time, and all of these authors that are here tonight, I enjoyed their books so immensely."

"We have some amazing storytellers in Canada telling some really great Canadian stories." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal-born actress Jessica Paré says she will miss her role as Don Draper's wife on Mad Men. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Housewives exec offers real insights

Books. Andy Cohen initially left a lot of things out of his new memoir, then went back and filled in gaps

Reading another person's diary is usually the stuff of daydreams or snooping, but Bravo Media's Watch What Happens Live host Andy Cohen is opening up his journal in The Andy Cohen Diaries: A Deep Look at a Shallow Year.

The book, published by Henry Holt and Co., is inspired by The Andy Warhol Diaries, published after the artist's death.

Cohen sat down at a midtown New York steakhouse owned by a close friend (often mentioned in his book) for a recent interview. He has a regular table across from his caricature that decorates the wall, along with hundreds of drawings of other celebrities.

The 46-year-old knows the staff and greets them by name. "It's my Regal Beagle," he joked, referring to the '70s sitcom Three's Company.

He talked about sharing his diary and being an executive producer of The Real Housewives shows.

Is it strange to put yourself out there and let people see who you are?
Yes, at first I went into this and I was like, 'I'm not going to talk about dating or boyfriends.' Then, months later, I went back and filled stuff in ... I was like, 'I'm just putting all this in there. It's just fun.' ... The longer you do something, you feel more open to the process.

There's an original entry about a Britney Spears interview where I had edited myself. I went back and was like, 'I need to put my real impressions of that day.' I have to book my show; I don't want to sell out my guests, but if Mariah Carey comes in, I want to tell people what that experience was like.

Will your fans know you better after reading this book?
I think they know a version of me (now). I think when you're live on TV in an unscripted environment, a lot slips through the cracks of your real self. People can read my face, they know what I'm thinking.

What's it like when you have friends as guests on your show? (Cohen's close pals include Sarah Jessica Parker, Liam Neeson, Anderson Cooper and Kelly Ripa.)
I remember one of the first times Sarah Jessica was on, I asked her about dating J.F.K. (John F. Kennedy) Jr., which is something we've certainly talked about off-camera. And I remember I turned to her in the commercial break and was like, 'Was that OK?' She gave me a sign, like it was fine, but surprising.

Which Real Housewives show is the most stressful?
It's all cyclical. It usually depends on what's in production and what's airing.

Do you listen to any of the feedback you get on the shows from social media?
You have to take it all with a grain of salt, but I pay attention to it. I write in the book that people were very vocal that we change up the New Jersey Housewives this season. We changed the cast and people were like, 'We don't like the new cast members. Bring back the originals.'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Andy Cohen, left, speaks with Teresa Giudice from The Real Housewives of New Jersey on his show, Watch What Happens Live. CHARLES SYKES/BRAVO

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Zachary Quinto ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Zachary's Out on his views about gay community

For Out magazine's 20th anniversary edition of its annual list of the most prominent LGBT personalities, the Out 100, the editors couldn't decide on a single honouree to feature on the cover. So they picked four. Copies of the magazine are going out featuring Zachary Quinto, Ellen Page, Sam Smith and Orange is the New Black star Samira Wiley. And they even get fun honorary titles, though they kind of all sound like the same thing: Quinto is the artist of the year, while Page is the entertainer of the year, Smith is the breakout of the Year and Wiley is the ingenue of the year. Go ahead, switch those around and see if anything really changes. Quinto, for his part, uses his time with the magazine to try to combat an encroaching blasé attitude, especially among younger members of the gay community. "I think there's a tremendous sense of complacency in the LGBT community," he says. "AIDS has lost the edge of horror it possessed when it swept through the world in the '80s. Today's generation sees it more as something to live with and something to be much less fearful of. And that comes with a sense of, dare I say, laziness."

The Word

Yes, Kim's a mom, butt can you expect any better of her?

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

It's still unclear whether Kim Kardashian's oiled-up, tush-exposing cover shot for Paper "broke the Internet," as the magazine was hoping — some might say it's been broken for a while already — but people definitely have opinions about it. While husband Kanye West was clearly supportive of her efforts, others were less than pleased. Comedian Billy Eichner went on a tear, offering several tweets about the photo, the best being, "Oh God look at what Renee Zellweger did now!" But others didn't find the situation so humorous. Glee star Naya Rivera popped up on Kardashian's Instagram post with the comment, "I normally don't, but … you're someone's mother." True, but she also built a multimillion-dollar media empire off of just one homemade sex tape, so let's not all act so surprised.

Twitter

@joelmchale
Alright turkeys. If you have anything else you want to say to your families, now's the time to say it.

@SethMacFarlane
Hey elephants: FYI you guys are f---ing HUGE. Stop letting everyone s--- on you.

@AlbertBrooks
I have to point out that no one has seen Garth

Nia Vardalos

My Big Fat Greek Wedding is getting a honeymoon

It's only taken 12 years, but you're finally getting that My Big Fat Greek Wedding sequel you didn't really ask for. Nia Vardalos will once again write and star alongside John Corbett — apparently both were still available — in a sequel that will feature yet another wedding and, I'm assuming, a fresh take on how kooky Greek-Americans are. What to Expect When You're Expecting director Kirk Jones will be heading things up, with Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson producing again. Does this mean my hopes for a sequel to Rounders aren't completely dead?

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LIFE 3

Let it glow, let it glow, let it glow!

When it comes to evening attire, little black dresses aren't the only way to make an impression. And there's no time like the winter holidays to step out in something more dazzling. These shimmery skirts and dresses are just the thing.

AFP WITH FILES FROM METRO

Gold

A gold tunic dress sticks to simpler tailoring, letting the sequins do all the talking. This flashy piece can be worn with a pair of black tights to tone down the look.

Marks and Spencer Dress, $155.26, marksandspencer.com

Colours

Gold isn't the only colour that shimmers and shines. How about a sassy number from H&M covered in iridescent green sequins, or a chic off-the-shoulder dress that will make heads turn at any holiday party?

H&M Dress, $14.95, hm.com

Banana Republic Off the Shoulder Dress $175, bananarepublic.ca

Skirts

Of course, the all-over-sequins look is not for everyone. For those who prefer something more subtle, there is always the option of a sequined miniskirt, to be paired with a tame and understated top for an interesting contrast. Or a sleek black and white pencil skirt for an elegant seasonal statement.

Banana Republic Skirt, $110, bananarepublic.ca

GUESS Sequin Miniskirt, $69.50, guess.ca

Maxi

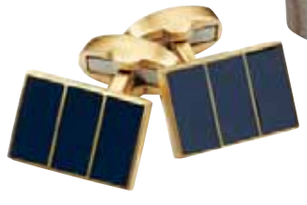
Increasingly popular in recent years, maxi dresses now seem to be here to stay. Decorated with sequins, floor-length gowns become more dramatic than ever.

New Look Maxi Dress, $160, newlook.com

3 holiday picks for the boys

Gap Fairisle Scarf, $39.95, gapcanada.ca

Cuff Links in Brass, $35, frankandoak.com



Dr. Martens Tassle Loafer, $160, drmartenscanada

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Liat

Age: 37

Occupation: Fashion blogger and editor

What she's wearing
Shoes and skirt from Zara, bag and sweater from French Connection, TopShop jacket, Urban Outfitters sunglasses.

Her inspiration
"I find inspiration from different cultures, music and art. I always look at fashion magazines and other bloggers for inspiration. I love Alexa Chung's style as well as Sienna Miller. I like to experiment with clothes and mixing different elements together."

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Trends Report

Looking for some style inspiration during holiday party season? Go online to Trends Report and find out how a little sheer dress can go a long way in helping you stand out from a crowd.

- **Online.** metronews.ca/trends-report
- **Follow** Irene on Twitter @MetroIreneK and Instagram @kuanirene
- **Photo** Model Lily Aldridge arrives on the red carpet at the CMA Awards in Nashville. (Getty Images)

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Mushroom's time to shine

This recipe serves four to six. RYAN SZULC

Mushroom, Leek and Gruyère Tart. With a puff pastry base, the flavours of this dish come together perfectly

"If vegetables were looking to elect a spokesperson, I'd nominate mushrooms," writes Charmian Christie in The Messy Baker.

"A bit of heat brings out the best in them. And when things get downright hot, they maintain their composure, refusing to dissolve into an incoherent mash.

"They work graciously with almost any herb, are effusively complementary to dairy, and are as comfortable with fancy-dress pastry as they are with a Casual Friday slice of toast.

"With a support staff of herbs, cheese, and garlic, this recipe lets the earthiness of mushrooms shine."

Ingredients

- 1 sheet commercial puff pastry
- 3 tbsp unsalted butter
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme, leaves only
- 2 cups thinly sliced leeks, white parts only, sliced lengthwise and slivered into half moons
- 16 oz cremini or Portobello mushrooms, cut into 1-inch pieces
- Ground black pepper (optional)
- 3 oz grated Gruyère cheese

1. Preheat the oven to 425 F.

2. On a sheet of parchment paper cut to fit a rimmed baking sheet, roll the puff pastry sheet out to a 10-inch square. Using a sharp knife, gently score the pastry an inch inside the outer edge, being careful not to cut all the way through. Place the parchment with the scored pastry onto a rimmed baking sheet. Refrigerate while you prepare the filling.

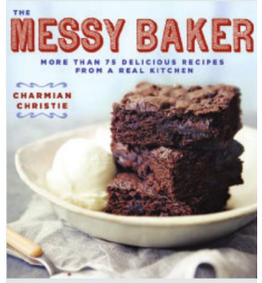
3. In a large skillet over medium heat, melt the butter. When it bubbles, grate the garlic on a microplane into the pan. Add the thyme. Cook gently for 1 minute. Add the leeks and cook until they begin to soften. Add the mushrooms and cook until they are soft, but not weeping, juices. Place the mushroom filling into a strainer and let drain for a few minutes.

4. Spoon the mushroom filling onto the pastry, being careful to keep inside the score marks. Add a grinding of fresh black pepper, if using. Bake for 15 minutes. Remove the tart from the oven and sprinkle with the cheese. Bake for 5 minutes, or until the cheese has melted and the pastry is golden brown. Serve while hot.

THE MESSY BAKER BY CHARMIAN CHRISTIE 2014. PUBLISHED BY HARPERCOLLINS CANADA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Cookbook of the Week

Get your hands dirty for a tasty cause



Forget the perfectly shaped cookies and layers that are exactly the same height.

The Messy Baker by Charmian Christie is all about real-world baking — in its sweet, messy, fun and not always gorgeous glory. Featuring more than 75 recipes, the book also guides readers through collapsed crusts or frosting smears with practical advice.

Among included recipes are: Sweet Potato Samosas, Stuffed French Toast, Whiskey-Kissed Pecan Pie, Blueberry-Lime Cornmeal Muffins and more. METRO

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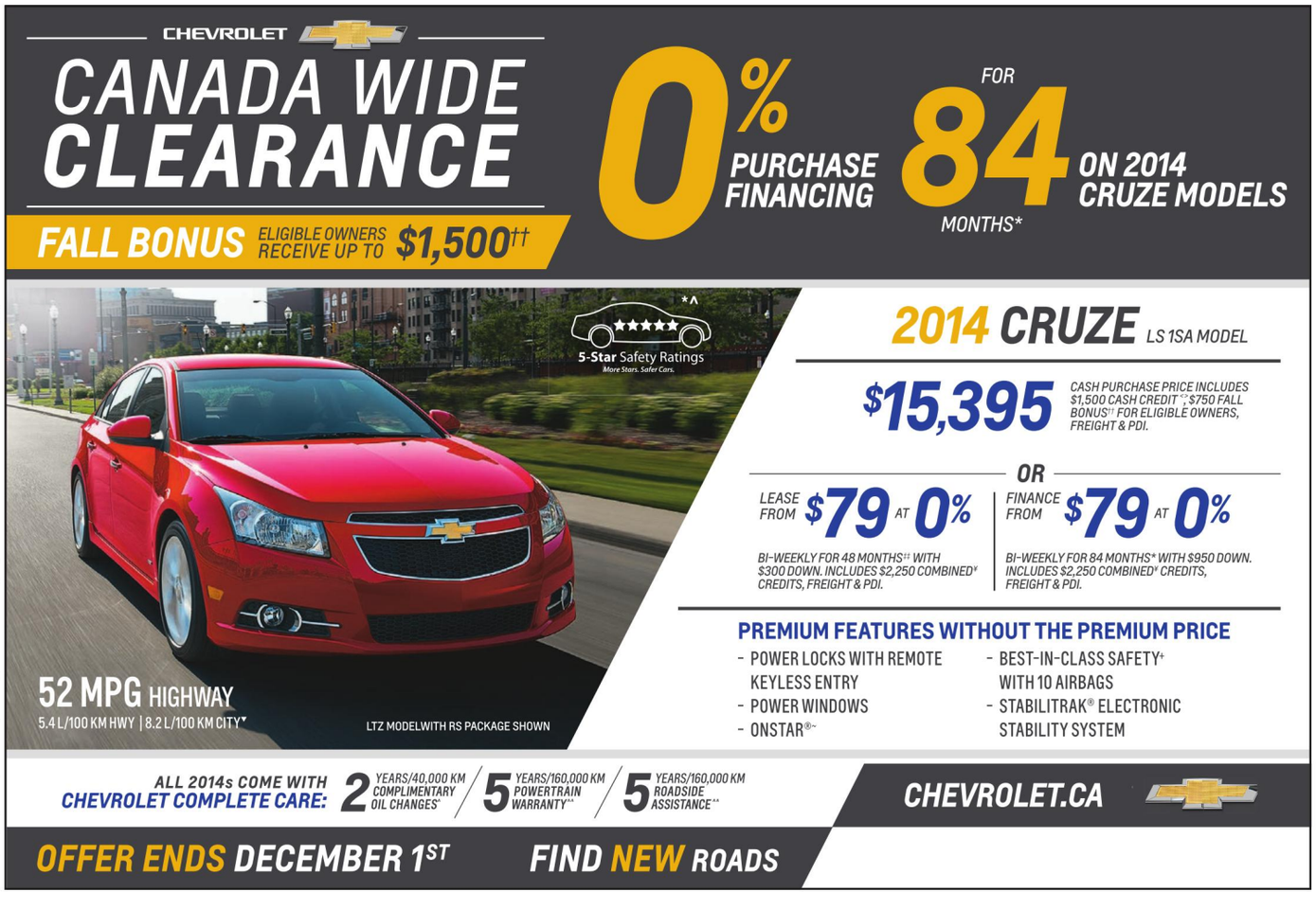
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Make the best of a bed situation

Small spaces.
A reader needs some sleeping solutions for a studio apartment

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

I recently moved to a studio and am having a hard time separating my living and sleeping areas. Is there a sophisticated option you can suggest that would allow for more room during the day or when company is over, but also a comfortable sleep at night? — Ben

I suggest investing in a Murphy-style wall bed for your space. It has the look of a tall cabinet, but conceals your mattress, bedding and pillows. You can pull your bed down into the room for sleeping and, when tucked away, it will save valuable floor space by day.

There are many styles and finishes to choose from. The beds are very easy to install and use — hydraulic hinges help pull them down — and will allow your space to be used for exercise, entertaining or working.

A wall bed is an investment that compares to the cost of built-in cabinets, but often adds value to small spaces when reselling.

A tuck-away wall bed can replace large, bulky beds in studio apartments and can turn a home office or den into an instant spare bedroom. Coventry Upright Wall Bed in walnut finish, $1930, techcraftstyle.ca. CONTRIBUTED

Separating living from sleeping quarters

Not into wall beds? Try this

If a wall bed is not your style, here are a few other ways to make your studio feel more like a large living space rather than a bedroom:

• Place sofa and bed back-to-back

Place the head of your bed against the back of the sofa and float them in the room like an island. The upholstered back of your sofa will then act as a headboard. Hang a sheer-type drape between the bed and sofa to create a visual barrier that still allows light to filter into the living-room seating space.

• Invest in a quality sofa bed

Invest in a quality sofa bed. Many good sofa beds are made for every-night sleep, long-lasting use and comfort. With this option I suggest investing in a thicker mattress option (mattresses in standard sofa beds are 3-4 inches; I suggest a 6-8 inch mattress to give you the comfort of a regular bed mattress. Adding a memory foam mattress topper can also provide a luxurious feel.

• Opt for a daybed

Forego your sofa and have a large daybed in the space. Filled with pillows, it can be a comfortable place to hang out, acting as your sofa by day and, when the pillows are removed, your bed by night.

• Use dressers as end tables

Use small three-drawer dressers as end tables, bar tops and to display your television. They will offer much needed bedroom-type storage. Adding new handles and a glass or stone top automatically gives a standard dresser an important, sophisticated look.

Technology

Mini speaker is an acoustic genie

A hand-sized portable wireless speaker has taken Indiegogo by storm to become the platform's top-funded Canadian campaign in history.

The Core is a slick box-shaped speaker featuring five digital signal processors to produce stereo sound, proving that high-quality audio can come from a single speaker. It can play music in up to nine different rooms simultaneously.

The brainchild of sound systems brand Mass Fidelity, it features gesture control which allows users to skip tracks by simply waving their hand when connected to their Bluetooth devices, and can play music from wired sound sources such as CD players and turntables.

Both iOS and Android compatible, it has a battery life of 12 hours and can be used to answer phone calls.

The speakers are set to ship from March 2015. AFP

The Core wireless speaker system. MASS FIDELITY

Gadgets. Fridge magnets let beer hang out and chill

Have you ever thought about using magnets to hang your beers from the refrigerator to create more storage space?

BottleLoft is a new magnetic strip designed to do exactly that, utilizing the oft-wasted space at the top of the fridge to store bottles.

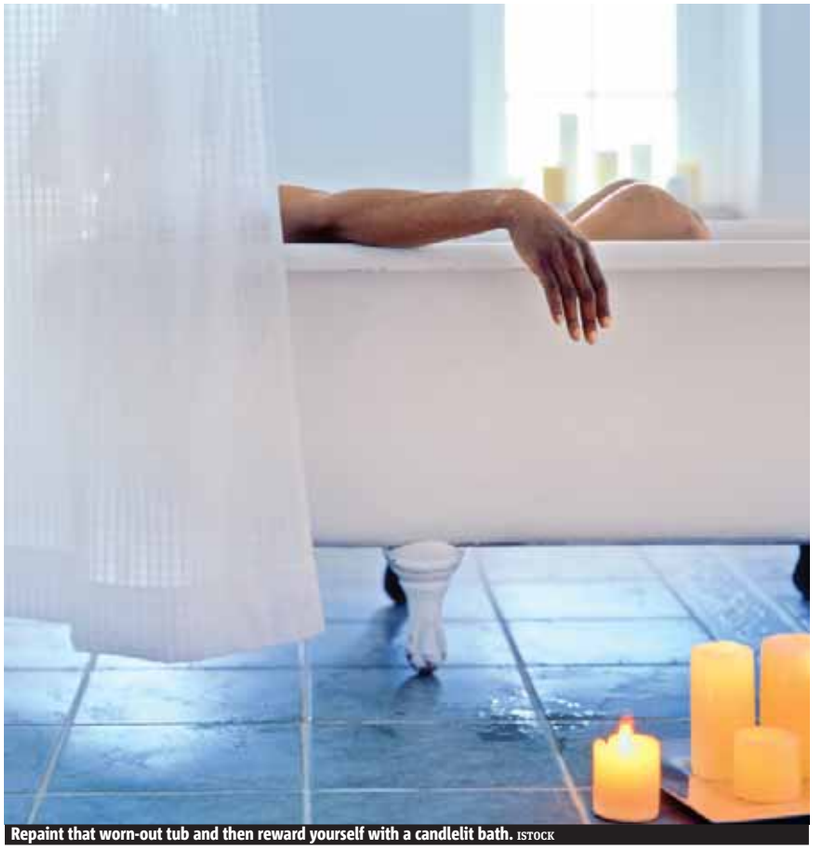
The invention comes in the form of plastic strips eight inches long, which are attached to the ceiling of the fridge. Each strip features three steel cups fitted with grade N52 neodymium magnets.

Each magnet is capable of holding up to 3.6 lb. in weight (the average 12-ounce bottle weighs 1.2 lb. according to the designers), meaning there's no risk of the beverages falling and crushing your cheese.

The brainchild of Brian Conti of the magnet company Strong Like Bull, BottleLoft is currently listed on crowdfunding website Kickstarter, where it has already more than doubled its original funding goal of $20,000.

BottleLoft can be ordered for pledges starting from $20, with the product expected to ship in January 2015. AFP

Screen shot from the promo video for BottleLoft. STRONG LIKE BULL MAGNETS/KICKSTARTER



Repaint that worn-out tub and then reward yourself with a candlelit bath. ISTOCK

Ready to take the plunge? Refinish your old bathtub

DIY. Paint that tired tub, then add a few spa-like accessories and soak up the new vibe

Bathrooms might not always be the most welcoming space in a home, but they're among the rooms we use every day. Which means they can start to show wear and tear more quickly than expected.

The bathtub is one area that can begin to rust, crack or mould. With a little help and fixing-up, your tub can look better than ever.

More bathroom projects

For more bathroom renovation projects, catch all new back-to-back episode of Bath Crashers Wednesdays at 9 p.m. ET/PT on DIY Network Canada.

Here are some tips on how to upgrade and transform the bath area into a relaxing space to escape cold winter weather.

Making the upgrade

To avoid the expensive costs of replacing a tub, re-painting it is a quick fix at an affordable price.

First, purchase bathtub paint or a tub/tile refinishing kit from a local hardware store. Next, make sure to remove all excess debris in and around the tub.

Proceed to give it a good scrub with a bleach-based product to help remove any grime or gloss. Once clean, sand down the tub with 400-600 grit wet/dry sandpaper and rinse away the dirt as you work.

Before going any further, make sure to have a respiratory mask, chemical goggles, and gloves to remain protected from the fumes. The products are extremely strong, so be sure to turn on the vent in the washroom, place a fan near the door and open windows throughout the home.

Apply two to three smooth, thin coats of paint and allow approximately one to two hours for drying.

Note that the paint gets very sticky, so try to apply it quickly. Let everything dry and remember not to use the bath at any point during the process.

Glam it up

Once the heavy duty work is complete, complement the new tub with other decorative elements.

Replace the shower rod with a new one or repaint the existing one for a fresh look. Select a funky shower curtain to incorporate some colour into the bathroom.

Add candles or flowers to the surrounding area to give it a spa-like feel or display bath salts in glass jars. Finally, consider upgrading the shower head or the faucet for a sharper look.

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Use books and art to tell a room's story

Decor. Dramatically change the look of any space simply by rearranging items on bookshelves, tabletops

Designers often surprise their clients by sharing a secret: Just as fashion accessories can have a big impact on an outfit, the items you display on shelves and tables can have a powerful effect on the style of any room.

Yet we often pay little attention to these spaces. Shelves get cluttered with stuff we've gotten as gifts or things we're not sure where to store.

Think about "how the items you're displaying will continue the story you're trying to tell in your space," advises designer Brian Patrick Flynn, founder of the Flynnside Out design blog.

A little editing of your collection can help banish clutter, and putting different items in the spotlight can reveal fresh combinations of things you already own.

Begin by exploring photos of bookshelves and tables on Pinterest, or other websites or magazines, suggests interior designer Betsy Burnham of Burnham Design, in Los Angeles. Once you've got some ideas bubbling, it's time to dive in.

Clear, then classify

First, empty all the shelves and tables from one or several rooms. Place all the items on the floor. Begin grouping them however you wish: by colour, texture, type of object or any other classification.

Look for patterns. You might find, for example, that you have several items relating to animals, or more pieces of brass or stone than you realized, says designer Molly Luetkemeyer of M. Design Interiors in Los Angeles.

Eliminate things that aren't your taste anymore or don't fit the room. We tend to add to our shelves and tables over time, Burnham says, so paring down from time to time is necessary.

Look inside

Before putting anything back on the shelves, consider painting a bookshelf's interior, or covering the wall behind an open bookshelf with wallpaper or another wall covering.

"The back panels of built-ins and bookshelves act just like backdrops to a TV set or a stage," says Flynn. "I usually paint the back panels the same colours as a room's walls, or I use wallpaper or grasscloth to introduce texture and create visual tension between the graphic shapes of books, picture frames and objects."

Once you've prepared that canvas, it's time to begin putting stuff back.

Mix and match

Besides clustering some items by colour, subject matter or material, also think about shape and height. And don't be afraid to mix art objects with books, or decorative boxes with vases of flowers.

All three designers suggest varying the orientation of your books' spines.

Burnham suggests gathering smaller items in decorative trays or bowls.

"One of the most interesting ways to define space on a coffee table or sideboard is using trays," she says. To bring style to a coffee table, stack several books on a large decorative tray, then "have a smaller tray where you put your TV remotes. You're making the mundane stuff orderly, you're giving it some form, and you're actually corralling it and making sense of it."

Take time to experiment with each shelf or table. Again, consider the story the room is telling.

"If you're someone who's a world traveller, keep things totally random and collected, or arranged artfully like a curated gallery collection," Flynn says. "If you're all about a colour scheme, layer objects so that the colours continue to finish the room's palette. But make sure you slightly throw the colours off, so it's not super matchy." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An artfully decorated bookcase features a painted interior that provides a striking backdrop for a collection of books. M. DESIGN INTERIORS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Lancaster JetHawks

Owners of Canadians add another franchise

Jake Kerr and Jeff Mooney, who have enjoyed increasing success as owners of the Vancouver Canadians minor-league baseball franchise, have purchased another team.

It was officially announced on Wednesday that Kerr and Mooney purchased the Lancaster JetHawks of the California League. According to a statement, the deal is still pending final approval from Minor League Baseball, Major League Baseball and the California League.

The JetHawks are affiliated with the Houston Astros.

As owners of the Canadians, the short-season Single-A affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays, Kerr and Mooney have seen continuous growth in attendance at Vancouver's historic and scenic Nat Bailey Stadium throughout the years.

The Canadians were named the top minor-league baseball franchise following the 2013 Northwest League season, which saw them claim their third consecutive championship.

Andy Dunn was named president of the JetHawks.

Dunn will also still remain as the president of the Canadians, according to the statement.

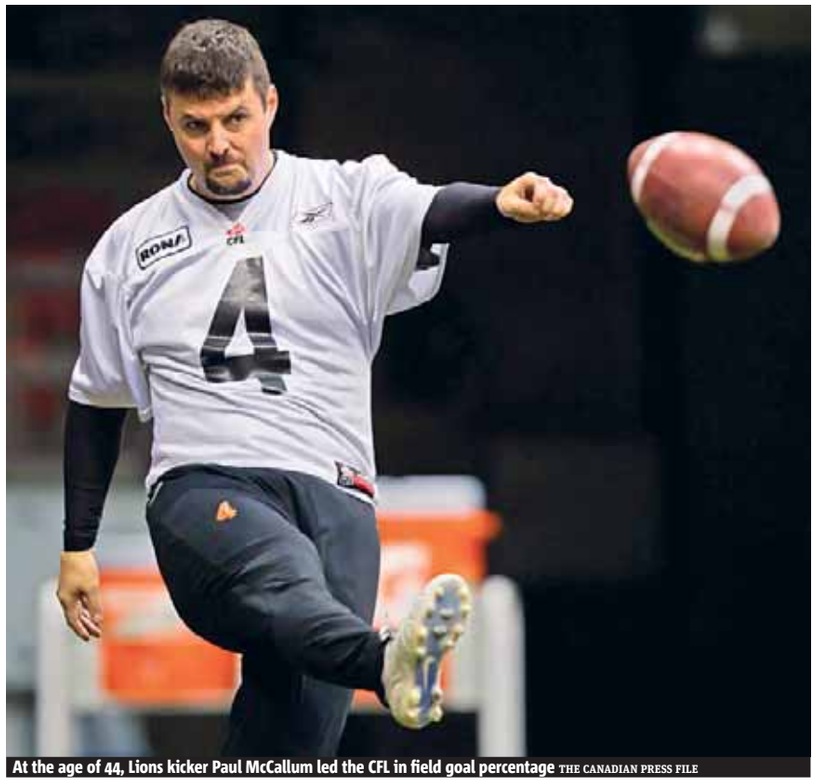
"We have enjoyed the process of building the Vancouver Canadians into an award-winning franchise and now we look to do the same in Lancaster," Kerr said in the statement.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

'We can count on' McCallum's kicks

Old reliable. Veteran kicker named a West Division all-star after hitting 90.5% of his field goals in 2014

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca



At the age of 44, Lions kicker Paul McCallum led the CFL in field goal percentage THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Last week, Paul McCallum stepped up to a 47-yard field goal attempt and money. Right down the middle with plenty of distance.

Not bad for 44 years old.

In a year when the B.C. Lions have been inconsistent, the veteran kicker has been his reliable self, good on 90.5 per cent of his field goal attempts. No other kicker in the league matched it.

On Wednesday, McCallum, with 22 years of CFL experience, was named a West Division all-star for the sixth time in his career.

As McCallum entered his mid-40s, he appeared to show signs of slowing down in the previous two seasons, but rebounded nicely in 2014. He didn't achieve the remarkable pace from 2011 — a 94.3 per cent success rate — although the accuracy and leg didn't appear to be an issue.

"Hitting over 50 yards, I'm still capable," said McCallum on Wednesday.

The 102nd Grey Cup game will take place at BC Place Stadium on Nov. 30. The Lions, champions three years ago, will have to go through the East if they hope to make it back.

It starts Sunday, when they play the Montreal Alouettes in the East Division semifinal.

Is this a last kick at the can for McCallum? (Lame pun totally intended.)

"No, not at all," he said.

"For the last few years, I just take one year at a time, just see how I feel and ... see if I'll still be able to help the team at a high level and not be a burden."

About two years ago, amid struggles and misses and disappointment, McCallum tinkered with his technique.

What he's tried to do since is maintain a smooth, rhythmic motion through his kick, concentrating on making solid contact with the ball.

Comforting for Lions to know that in a playoff situation, they have McCallum's dependable right foot.

"You know what you get with Paul," said defensive back Ryan Phillips, a teammate of McCallum's since 2006.

"He's a guy that we can count on in crucial times."

Canucks assign Defazio back to the farm

Brandon DeFazio's first stint with the Canucks lasted two games, ending with his assignment to Utica on Wednesday. CHRIS CARLSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Vancouver Canucks reassigned forward Brandon Defazio back to the Utica Comets of the American Hockey League, which would suggest one of the NHL club's injured forwards is nearing a return to the lineup.

Defazio, 26, appeared in two games for the Canucks, making his NHL debut against the Anaheim Ducks last Sunday. He didn't record a point in his brief stint with Vancouver, playing mostly on the fourth line.

The Canucks had a day off on Wednesday, but will return to practice on Thursday.

Their latest victory — a 4-3 overtime win over Ottawa — gives them 12 in the first 17 games of the season.

Despite their recent success, including three wins on a four-game trip that included stops in California, the Canucks have been dealing with the injury bug, which hit them while on the road.

Radim Vrbata, Derek Dorsett, Zack Kassian and Luca Sbisa were all injured during the trip, prompting the Canucks to recall Nicklas Jensen and Defazio from the AHL. Tough guy Tom Sestito was also injured prior to the team travelling.

Jensen, who was put back on the fourth line Tuesday, remains with the club.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

Next up

The Canucks host the Arizona Coyotes at Rogers Arena on Friday.

4 SPORTS

Kershaw completes Cy treble as Kluber named new AL King

MLB. Dodgers pitching ace takes third NL honour, while Indians hurler edges the King Felix in the AL

Clayton Kershaw bagged his third Cy Young Award. JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES

Los Angeles Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw was a unanimous choice for his third NL Cy Young Award, and Cleveland's Corey Kluber edged Seattle's Felix Hernandez to win the AL honour for the first time.

Kershaw led the majors in victories and ERA and threw a no-hitter, going 21-3 with a 1.77 ERA for the NL West champions. Now, the big question: is he the Most Valuable Player, too?

The 26-year-old lefty with a wicked curveball will find out Thursday if he's the first NL pitcher to sweep the MVP and Cy Young honours since Bob Gibson in 1968. As expected, Kershaw earned the pitching prize for the second year in a row, getting all 30 first-place votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Cincinnati's Johnny Cueto was second with 112 points.

Voting was completed before the start of the post-season. Kershaw went 0-2 with a 7.82 ERA in a Division Series loss to St. Louis, leaving him at 1-5 with a 5.12 ERA in his post-season career.

Kluber received 17 of 30 first-place votes and 169 points, while King Felix got 13 firsts and 159 points. Chris Sale of the Chicago White Sox was third with 78 points.

A 28-year-old right-hander, Kluber went 18-9 to tie for the AL lead in wins. He had a 2.44 ERA in his first full major-league season and 269 strikeouts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pelicans glide past Lakers

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant shoots over Pelicans guard Austin Rivers during Wednesday night's game in New Orleans. Bryant had 33 points on 10-for-28 shooting with five assists and four rebounds but was overshadowed by Anthony Davis' whopping 25-point (12-for-16), 12-rebound and six-block stat line as the Pelicans won 109-102.

GERALD HERBERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Junior hockey

McDavid injury may rule him out of championships

Connor McDavid will be out five to six weeks with a fractured bone in his right hand, an injury that could put his participation for Canada in the world junior championship in doubt.

The Erie Otters announced Wednesday afternoon that McDavid suffered a fracture of the fifth metacarpal bone in a fight Tuesday night with Mississauga's Bryson Cianfrone when he missed and hit the top of the boards. The fractured bone extends from the base of the pinkie finger to the wrist. McDavid will not require surgery.

The 17-year-old junior hockey phenom saw a hand specialist in Toronto after X-rays after Tuesday's game were not definitive. Six weeks from Wednesday falls on Dec. 24.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Vancouver was in-form Miller's saving grace

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Matt Larkin
vancouver@metronews.ca

Take a deep breath, Canucks fans. Enjoy it. Gaze at the NHL goaltending wins leaderboard, with Ryan Miller's name at the top. Soak it all in.

It must be particularly sweet to see Miller flourishing after all the criticism GM Jim Benning received for signing Miller this past off-season. I must admit — I was chief among the detractors. For one, I saw Vancouver as better off rebuilding and felt throwing $6 million a year at Miller would give the team only a marginal goaltending upgrade that would keep them limping along the playoff bubble. Secondly, I questioned whether Miller was a fit in Vancouver.

Last season, he excelled on a horrible Buffalo Sabres team, amassing a .923 save percentage, but a trade to the St. Louis Blues torpedoed his season. What happened? Corey Hirsch, the Blues' goalie coach at the time, foreshadowed it. He expressed to me that he wondered if Miller could adjust to a much smaller workload, as the Blues did such a good job limiting shots. In Buffalo, Miller faced 40 or more shots in a game 10 times last season, clearing a .922 SP each time. It occurred just once in 19 regular season games with the Blues and once in the playoffs. And we all know what happened to Miller in the playoffs. He couldn't make the big save, and the Blues opted to walk away from him in the off-season, promoting top prospect Jake Allen. Miller couldn't seem to focus as well with smaller workloads.

Ryan Miller GETTY IMAGES

And after a season in which the Canucks allowed the seventh-fewest shots in the NHL and ranked ninth in Corsi Close, per puckalytics.com, I was convinced Miller was a poor fit. But out went coach John Tortorella and in came Willie Desjardins, whose system allows for more wide-open hockey. The Canucks have slipped from seventh in shots allowed (28.1) to 15th (29.3). Their Corsi ranking has tumbled from ninth (52.0) to 17th (49.8). And while those trends obviously don't bode well for the team as a whole, they might explain why Miller looks sharp so far. He maintains a better rhythm with more chances. Many goalies do. Jaroslav Halak told me the same thing last year.

A team that likes to trade chances, as these Canucks do, can get away with it if the goaltending is good enough. This Vancouver team reminds me of last year's Colorado Avalanche and the Toronto Maple Leafs of the Pat Quinn era. Those teams sustained regular season success, so maybe Miller can help take this team to the playoffs after all.

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Do what you can with what you have and you will get what you need. Too many people expect life to come to them, but you're far too smart to be one of them.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Your powers of self-discipline will be tested over the next 24 hours. You will pass easily. But a harder test is on its way.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You enjoy soMe drama in your life but you need stability too. You'll be delighted to discover there are people you can turn to when things get tough.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You can patch up a relationship that has turned sour in recent weeks. Make the first approach and you will be heartened to learn a loved one is as eager as you to kiss and make up.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
There will be heart-warming moments today but don't let them detract from other important matters. A new relationship may be a lot of fun but family and financial issues have to be dealt with too.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The planets urge you to face up to what worries you the most. You may be surprised to discover that what you have been trying to avoid is actually quite exciting.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
A financial problem you have been struggling with for weeks or months can be resolved, especially if you are prepared to listen to the advice of an older and wiser colleague.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
No matter who depends on you there are certain things you must do for yourself over the next 24 hours. An opportunity to improve your status must be seized immediately.

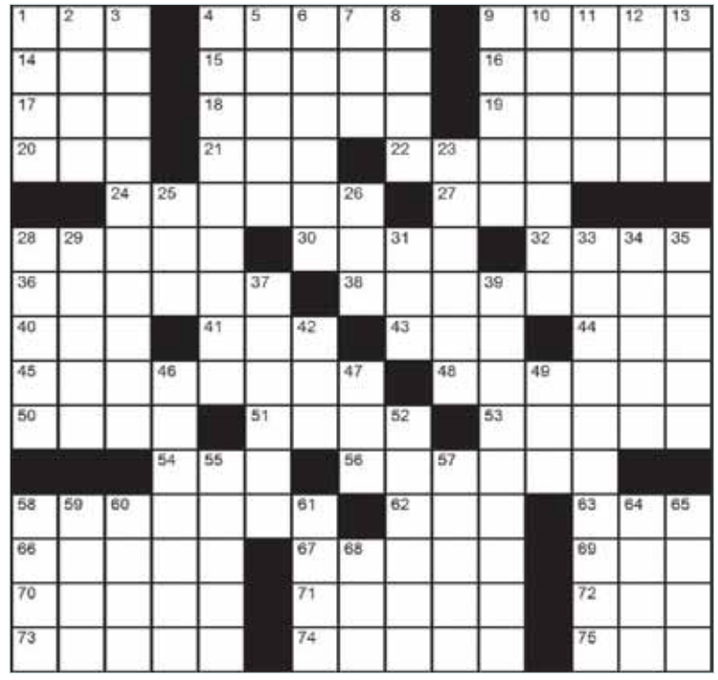
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
No matter how bruised your ego is, today will delight you. Don't worry about keeping on top of your routine. There will be plenty of time to catch up later in the month.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You need to approach serious issues in a serious manner. If you let things drift people are liable to get on your case and your reputation could suffer.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The tension that has been a feature of your emotional life of late will ease somewhat over the next 24 hours. Even routine tasks will seem less of a chore.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Today's Venus-Saturn link means you can patch things up with a friend. Sometimes a relationship can benefit from a dispute, especially if it clears the air.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Say "I do."
4. Hamilton's nickname, __ City
9. The Big __ (Attraction in Colborne, ON)
14. Past
15. Safari outfit hue
16. Hold up
17. Pro
18. Got smart, __ up
19. Particular purple
20. T.O. transport provider
21. Mr. Frehley
22. Ads-emailed-in-bulk source
24. Interrupt the stand-up
27. Fiber __ (Cereal brand)
28. Depart, poetically
30. Incision
32. Health food berry
36. Dominica's capital
38. BC's provincial bird, __ Jay
40. Summer hrs. acronym
41. NB: Saint John Airport code
43. Antacid brand
44. San Francisco's __ Hill
45. Lea Michele or Chris Colfer: 2 wds.
48. Newfoundland town; or, Neptune moon
50. Rockefeller Center muralist
51. Overlook
53. University bldgs.
54. Large bird
56. __ du Soleil
58. Reflection givers
62. Romanian currency
63. Seed holder
66. Prefix to 'clast' (Image breaker)
67. Surface
69. New in Toronto, __ Khan Museum
70. Actor Lorenzo of the few artists to have won all four major showbiz awards, known together by this acronym
71. Ladies' men
72. Blood hue
73. CBC's "Republic of __"
74. Apprehensive feeling
75. Golf peg

Down
1. Float, as a scent
2. Rita Moreno is one
3. NB village; or, former name of Montreal's Boulevard Rene-Levesque
4. New in Vancouver, __ Lodge Aboriginal Hotel & Gallery
5. Syrupy
6. Conference room chart supports
7. Supplement
8. Container closers
9. Commercials gig
10. Canadian breakfast serving, __ bacon
11. Fruit type
12. Bathe
13. Observer
23. Strong/effective
25. Summer: French
26. Chicago trains
28. Mr. Kinnear's
29. George Gershwin co-composed tune: "Tee-__-Un-Bum-Bo"
31. 'Meteor' suffix
33. Hairstyle wearer's preference, perhaps: 2 wds.
34. "___ with a View" (1985)
35. Book codes, briefly
37. The Beatles played Shea Stadium during it in '65: 2 wds.
39. "Still In Line" by Canadian emcee/producer __ feat. Promise
42. Jelly
46. Lasting
47. Mr. Ocasek
49. Promissory note
52. Kitchen floors surface
55. Canuck creature
57. Respites
58. Balmy
59. Flight-related UN Agency headquartered in Montreal [acronym]
60. "__ and Michele's High School Reunion" (1997)
61. Big tale
64. Arch type
65. Florida: Miami-__ County
68. Stimpy's pal

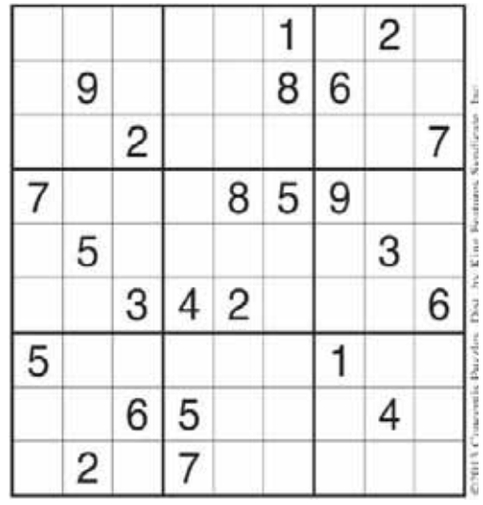
Yesterday's Crossword

Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

2	7	9	5	8	1	4	3	6
1	4	6	3	9	7	5	8	2
5	3	8	6	2	4	7	9	1
4	2	1	7	6	8	9	5	3
7	9	3	4	5	2	6	1	8
8	6	5	1	3	9	2	4	7
3	8	7	9	4	6	1	2	5
9	1	2	8	7	5	3	6	4
6	5	4	2	1	3	8	7	9

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Affordability Top Vancouver Election Issue

After six years of close-minded government, Vancouver is more expensive than ever before. Four more years of Gregor Robertson will only make it worse. The open, positive agenda put forward by Kirk LaPointe and the NPA is needed to make Vancouver more affordable.

Gregor Robertson's Unaffordable Record

Skyrocketing home prices;
no action on foreign buyers

Chronic childcare shortages

Taxes & fees up almost 50% per home

Secret deal with $102,000 union donor

Family income growth half of the Canadian average

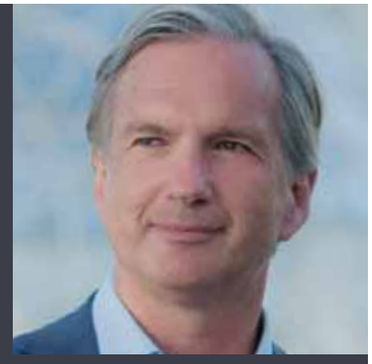
Rejected $500,000 school donation
Parents forced to fundraise

Parking Fees Up 60%

Vancouver can't afford
4 more years of "Vision"

Authorized by Wayne Zielke, Financial Agent 604.559.1146

Kirk LaPointe's Affordability Plan



New CityPlan for more family & senior housing and neighbourhood support

1000 new childcare spaces and
new childcare spaces at schools

Property Tax Freeze Plan

Put neighbourhoods and taxpayers first

Promote all sectors of the economy, especially ones with high paying jobs

Work with partners
who will donate to schools

Free parking Sundays and Holidays

Together,
the VANCOUVER we want.

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NPA